

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 7 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5) because they do not include reference character 52 that was mentioned in the description. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 1. Applicant has highlighted reference character 52 with yellow. Because reference character 52 is shown in Figure 1, Applicant asserts no drawing correction is necessary.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 7 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claim 3 was amended to make clear that the second leaf valve provided between the small diameter leaf valve and the inner leaf valve comprises one leaf valve. The other second leaf valves comprises a plurality of leaf valves. Accordingly, claim 3 is definite.

The Examiner asserted that claim 7 was redundant of claims 5 and 6. Claim 7 has been amended to make clear that it includes the limitations of both claim 5 and claim 6. Accordingly, claim 7 is not indefinite.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Figure 3c of the admitted prior art in the specification. Figure 3c does not show a valve structure of a hydraulic shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 recites a valve structure for a hydraulic shock absorber of a vehicle with numerous limitations including that the valve structure comprises a plurality of second leaf valves all provided in an opposite side of a small diameter leaf valve to the first leaf valve. Further, the inner leaf valve is disposed between the plurality of second leaf valves and an annular outer leaf valve having a larger thickness than the inner leaf valve is disposed at an outer peripheral side of the inner leaf valve. Figure 3c does not teach or suggest a valve structure with all the limitations of claim 1. For example, Figure 3c shows a inner leaf valve disposed between a first leaf valve and the second leaf valve. In the inventive leaf valve structure, the small diameter leaf valve is located closer to the flow passage than the inner leaf valve and the outer leaf valve because the inner and outer leaf valves are disposed between the plurality of second leaf valves. Accordingly, Figure 3c does not teach or suggest a valve structure of a hydraulic shock absorber with all the limitations of claim 1.

1. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 3c of the admitted prior art in the specification. As discussed above, Figure 3c does not teach or

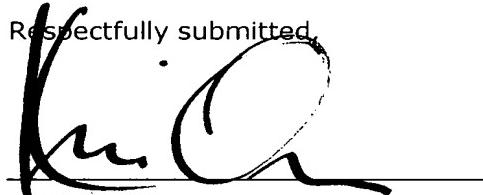
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suggest a valve structure with all the limitations of claim 1. Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1. Thus, for the reasons discussed above, these claims are patentable.

**CONCLUSION**

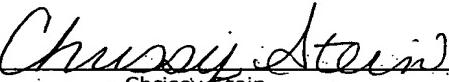
Having obviated the Examiner's objections, the application hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Keith H. Orum  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration Number 33985

DRUM & ROTH  
53 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-3606  
TELEPHONE: 312.922.6262  
FAX: 312.922.7747

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 23, 2004.

  
Chrissy Stein

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